

# Bothamsall Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 24th May 2023

Present: Parish Cllrs. Hynes (Chair), McCombe, Davis, Eaglen, Stothard and seven members of the public.

Apologies None

Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Proposed by Robert Thorpe seconded Cllr McCombe. All in favour who were present.

### Agenda.

#### Social Club Report

Membership currently stands at 113. This is down on the 117 at this point last year. However, 30 people have not rejoined this year from the last time payment was taken in 2020, so these figures mean that 26 new members have signed up since last May.

- The current financial situation of the Social Club is stable, although with the current rate of inflation, there is pressure on the prices we charge for drinks.
- We have invested in 2 new drinks fridges (1 to increase capacity and 1 to replace the fridge which broke) and also a new freezer and a fridge freezer in the back room.
- We are also using some of our reserves to help the Management Committee to pay for the refurbishment of the Village Hall.

#### Management Committee Report

This year the Management Committee, in conjunction with the Social Club, has been focused on the refurbishment of the Village Hall. Initially this involved fixing the damp that had spread throughout the hall and was particularly prevalent in the gent toilet. This being done we moved on to redecoration. The carpets and chairs in the main hall have been replaced and the benches are being reupholstered in the coming months. The kitchen carpet is being replaced with a hard floor which should make it easier to keep clean and the old clock has been taken to be repaired. I like to say a big thank you to all who have been involved, not least Andy and Becky Bennett who did all the painting, filling and general making good.

Outside of the hall we have replaced the shed and have got new outside tables and chairs, kindly donated by Peter Gibbs.

In addition to the Covid grants that we received last year, we applied for and received a grant from the council which has helped us to be able to afford these improvements. As with last year, the general running costs of the hall are still covered by the income from the social club, Pilates and Table Tennis groups, however we have had to increase the rent in order to be able to do this. On the plus side the electricity prices have started to come down and we have been able to secure a new two year deal at a level that we can sustain.

with liquid of an unknown origin in them. They took longer to dispose of as the District Council had to involve a different collection team.

Village Clean Up for the King took place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April to spruce up the village for the Coronation. We repeated the events of last year's celebrations when, earlier this month their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla were crowned. This time all children in the parish, under the age of 16, received a commemorative 50 pence piece, thanks to the provision of funds by Cllr Ogle.

We will have another litter pick-up later in the year for the village only. Thank you to all villagers who volunteered their time, energy, painting and gardening expertise

We successfully advertised and appointed a new Parish Clerk last September. Sadly, due to the workload in his own business he had to give it up but is still helping us out until next month. I would like to thank James Hinchcliffe for all his work to date and wish him well with his physiotherapy business. The clerk's role is an important one and really supports the work of the council. James reports all potholes, drainage issues, pavements, fly tipping and signage to the relevant authorities. Anyone interested in undertaking this role, which has a salary attached, please talk to James or any member of the council.

In the interim the Parish Councillors will undertake some of the tasks the clerk usually undertakes to ensure continuity. We would be grateful if residents could report any street lighting or pothole issues directly to the District Council via their website.

We have been working with Paul Hillier at the District Council on improvements to the speeding issues undertaking the following:

West end of village (Castle side): Three sets of rumble strips have been laid down on entry to the village. Refreshment of the 30 mph round signs and slow road markings are also in place. Cllr Eaglen removed tree branches that were obscuring a speed sign on entry to the village. A topography assessment undertaken several years ago outlined that the speed monitoring sign on this side of the village could not be moved further up the road. If the Parish Council can provide evidence of frequent pedestrian/horse activity along Main Street between Meadow Lane and the right of way, Viaem may consider incorporating a "pedestrians in road" sign next year.

East end of village: Refreshment of the 30 mph round signs and slow road markings were also completed. A new survey is being commissioned by the District Council to investigate if this section of the road could be changed from 60mph to 40mph as a buffer when transitioning to 30mph on Main Street. Cllr Eaglen continues to download and analyse the data from the village owned speed awareness monitor and we use this as evidence to our speed issues. We hope this information will greatly help the council in building a case for further road and speed reduction improvements.

Although we have completed, or will soon complete, all the large projects we had planned, we will be looking to apply to the council next year for a capital grant next year to make further improvements with a view to making the building more energy efficient.

### Sports Ground Report

As reported last year the 25 year lease had been agreed and was waiting to be signed.

A meeting was arranged and the officials were elected and a gentlemen's agreement was agreed with Welbeck Archers for them to use the field.

The entire field is being mowed and is beginning to look fairly good.

The carnation celebrations took place and were a memorable day thanks to all who helped which included the Welbeck Archers.

Every effort should be made for village residents to use the field.

### Church Report

Thanks go to Jill and all helpers running the coffee mornings, money raised will go to the church funds which will help to purchase a new notice board.

Thanks also go to Chris Moody for running the Tower fund for many years. This money is important to the church.

Currently we still have no vicar.

Police Report            Did not attend.

### Chairperson's report

2022-23 was the year we returned fully to face-to-face meetings. However, we decided to try meeting bi-monthly and the signs are that we will continue to meet in this way. However, we will continue to monitor how effective it is.

Council members continue to volunteer their time and energy and I would like to thank them all for everything that they do.

As a Parish Council we, at last, are moving to internet banking. Work is almost complete now to get to the implementation stage. We will develop a procedure to ensure safeguards are in place. We will still need to use a cheque book but over time this will become redundant.

Over the past year we have spent a lot of time on village maintenance. In June we did it in preparation for the late Queen Elisabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. Most of the village furniture had an application of paint. The Jubilee celebration itself went very well. I think everybody enjoyed the day and it was very well attended. All children attending the Sports Field received a commemorative medal.

This year we had our annual litter pick on the 11<sup>th</sup> March which was well supported. Approx 80 bags of rubbish were collected including a number of large containers

Following a communication exchange with the Police and Crime Commissioner and local Area Commander regarding the lack of opportunity to engage with the Police, lines of communication have been re-established. We have issues with quad biking that causes extensive damage to crops and property as well as the usual thefts and damage to property. Nottinghamshire Police Constable 3467 Gareth Mitchell is our local PC and he attended a Parish Council Meeting where he outlined that he has been communicating with rural communities, farmers and the forestry commission to try and reduce the amount of off-road quad and motorbikes being used within local woodlands and on land. He is also planning on visiting more public spaces within his area and he has been invited to attend the club on a Friday evening to engage further with villagers. PC Mitchell has suggested emailing him to report any issues (Gareth.Mitchell@notts.police.uk).

PC Mitchell also mentioned a cohort of people who are collecting animal trophies by trapping and killing them. A more widespread investigation is currently underway. He has advised to report any sightings of dead animals to him. Please photograph any animal you find.

To the best of my knowledge our 2 defibs were not required for use this past year, however, they remain ready for action should the need arise. The telephone kiosk batteries have been replaced and the batteries at the east end of the village will need to be replaced towards the end of the year. Any donations would be welcomed.

I would also like to thank the Management and Social Club Committees who continue to do an incredible job. I'm sure you will all agree that it can be a thankless task that they do very well.

A big thank you must go to Angie Greene who has acted as our internal auditor for the last 3 years and has agreed to do it again this year. It is very much appreciated.

Once again thank you to the various committees and all who have helped in the village throughout the year. My apologies if I have missed anyone or anything.

Our capital fund continues to be invested across 2 banks: Cambridge and Counties and Hampshire Trust Bank. Whilst interest rates remain low, the money generated supports our finances and helps to keep our precept low. Our concurrent grant continues to reduce until eventually the grant will no longer be available.

#### Members of the public

Concerns were raised by Alison Waite as to the dog fouling on Medow Lane and asked if another sign can be placed at the top of the lane. PE to action

Meeting closed 8.02pm

*John Apes*

*9.11.2024*